

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ophthalmologic image processing apparatus that masks a fundus image using an aperture mask image, comprising:

input means for inputting the fundus image;

image generation means for generating an aperture mask image in accordance with information of the fundus image or inputting the aperture mask image;

image adjustment means for adjusting a value of the fundus image, wherein the image adjustment means comprises a smoothing means for performing a low pass filtering process on the aperture mask image, and the image adjustment means adjusts the value of the fundus image in accordance with a pixel value of the aperture mask image on which the pass filtering process is performed; and

synthesizing means for synthesizing the fundus image whose value is adjusted with the aperture mask image,

wherein the image adjustment means adjusts the value of the fundus image based on coordinates in a boundary between a mask area of the aperture mask image and an area of the fundus image.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image adjustment means reduces a pixel value from the boundary between the mask area of the aperture mask image and the region of the fundus image to an outside of the mask area and increases the pixel value from the boundary to the inside of the mask area.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the image adjustment means adjusts the value of the fundus image by multiplying the fundus image by a coefficient proportional to the pixel value of the aperture mask image on which the pass filtering process is performed.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation means comprises comparison means for comparing a size of the fundus image with a size of the aperture mask image, and

the image generation means adjusts the size of the aperture mask image in accordance with a comparison result of the comparison means.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation means comprises selection means for selecting one of the aperture mask images in accordance with a size of the fundus image.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a number of bits of a gray scale of the aperture mask image is different from a number of bits of one pixel for the fundus image.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the smoothing means adjusts a degree of the low pass filtering process in accordance with a size of the fundus image when the low pass filtering process is performed.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image adjustment means comprises moving means for moving a fundus area in the fundus image whose value is adjusted to predetermined coordinates on the fundus image.

10. (Currently Amended) An ophthalmologic image processing method that masks a fundus image using an aperture mask image, comprising:

an inputting step of inputting the fundus image;

an image generating step of generating an aperture mask image in accordance with information of the fundus image or inputting the aperture mask image;

an image adjusting step of adjusting a value of the fundus image, wherein the image adjusting step comprises performing a low pass filtering process on the aperture mask image; and adjusting the value of the fundus image in accordance with a pixel value of the aperture mask image on which the pass filtering process is performed; and

a synthesizing step of synthesizing the fundus image whose value is adjusted with the aperture mask image,

wherein in the image adjusting step, the value of the fundus image is adjusted based on coordinates in a boundary between a mask area of the aperture mask image and an area of the fundus image.

11. (New) An ophthalmologic image processing apparatus for executing an image processing on a fundus image, comprising:

image taking means for taking a fundus image;

synthesizing means for synthesizing the fundus image and an aperture mask image; and

image processing means for providing a line data which gently joins a pixel value of the fundus image within an aperture region of the aperture mask image and a pixel value of the fundus image outside the aperture region of the aperture mask image,

wherein the image processing means calculates the line data in accordance with pixel coordinates on a line horizontally crossing the boundary between the inside and outside the aperture region.

12. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the image processing means multiplies the pixel value of the fundus image with the pixel value of the aperture mask image on which a low pass filtering process is executed, so as to calculate the line data.

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the image processing means adjusts the pixel value of the fundus image by multiplying on the pixel value of the fundus image

a coefficient proportional to the pixel value of the aperture mask image on which a low pass filtering process is executed, before the calculation.

14. (New) An ophthalmologic image processing method for executing an image processing on a fundus image, the method comprising:
an image taking step for taking a fundus image;
a selecting step of selecting an aperture mask image;
an image processing step for providing a line data which gently joins a pixel value of the fundus image within an aperture region of the aperture mask image and a pixel value of the fundus image outside the aperture region of the aperture mask image; and
a synthesizing step for synthesizing the fundus image and an aperture mask image,
wherein in the image processing step, the line data is calculated in accordance with pixel coordinates on a line horizontally crossing the boundary between the inside and outside the aperture region.